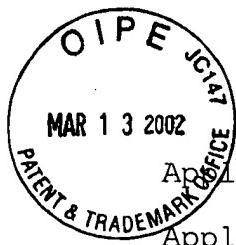


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PATENT
2809-0114P



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiromasa OKUBO et al. Conf.: 2894
Appl. No.: 09/657,815 Group: 2854
Filed: September 8, 2000 Examiner: Crenshaw
For: PRINTING BLANKET

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2809
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LETTER

MAR 22 2002

Technology Center 2100

March 11, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for an extension of time for two (2) month(s) to April 1, 2002 for filing a reply to the Office Action dated November 1, 2001 in connection with the above-identified application.

Applicant claims small entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

NO extensions of time have been previously obtained for filing the response. Thus a fee of \$0.00 for an extension of () month(s) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a) is required.

An extension of one (1) month(s) for filing a reply was previously petitioned and paid for on March 1, 2002. Thus a fee of \$290.00 is required for obtaining an additional one (1) month(s) for filing a reply.

A check in the amount of \$290.00 is attached.

Appl. No. 09/657,815

- Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount of \$0.00. A triplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

James T. Eller Jr. #39,538
By Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463

JAK/JWH/bsh
2809-0114P

(Rev. 02/20/02)